

When an administration that claims, as this one did, that it had hard incontrovertible evidence of weapons of mass destruction, the American people believed it because it came from the Office of the President. Now the President's security adviser admits there were serious doubts that Saddam had the aluminum tubes needed for weapons of mass destruction, the very basis for going to war; but the administration ignored the evidence and manufactured the sound bites that took America to war.

In so doing, the administration violated the trust the American people place in the Office of the President. The American people will take the first step in restoring integrity to the Office of the President when they elect JOHN KERRY as the next President on November 2. It cannot come too soon.

#### CRYSTAL-CLEAR CHOICES

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the future of our health care system is at stake in the November election.

In one way or another, every American has experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly about our health care system; and the question voters all across this country should ask themselves is: Are we better off than we were 4 years ago?

Let us take one look at our administration's record on health care. Since 2001, an additional 5.2 million Americans are uninsured. For the American businesses and families, health care premiums have risen more than \$3,500 in these 3 years. We are paying more and covering fewer people.

Under this administration's watch, seniors have felt the sting of double-digit Medicare premium increases. Seniors and everyone else's prescription drug costs increase steadily, and we watch the administration fight plans that allow Medicare to negotiate for lower costs.

The American people deserve better. This Congress should do better.

We should fund children's health care programs and expand to working families who cannot afford health care insurance. We need to reverse this administration's damage by cutting our families' health insurance premiums by \$1,000 a year.

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We should allow for crucial stem cell research that holds such promise for our loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is clear this November.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF REPUBLICAN PARTY

(Mr. COX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, this is the 150th anniversary of the Republican Party's founding. After a century and a half, from the abolition of slavery to the establishment of women's suffrage, to the liberation of millions of people in the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Iraq, there has not been any question but that the Republican Party is the most effective political organization in the history of the world in advancing the cause of freedom.

In 1924, this week, Republicans denounced the Democrats' Presidential nominee William Jennings Bryant for defending the Ku Klux Klan at the Democratic National Convention. It was this week in 1868 that Republicans denounced the Democrats for adopting a national campaign theme, "This is a White Man's Country, Let White Men Rule."

Mr. Speaker, each day of the year, the Republican Freedom Calendar highlights a civil rights achievement of this most American of institutions. The calendar is available at [www.policy.house.gov](http://www.policy.house.gov).

#### ARE YOU BETTER OFF—HEALTH CARE

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has had only one policy in the last 4 years and that is the fiscally irresponsible tax cuts to the wealthiest people in this country. Today, an additional 5.2 million Americans are uninsured, and the family share of health care premiums has risen by over \$1,000 in 4 years, a 57 percent increase.

In addition, prior to George Bush, we had, for the first time in 12 years, brought down the number of uninsured. Now we find ourselves with 45 million Americans that are uninsured. Family USA just reported the fact that at any given time there are over 80 million Americans without access to insurance during a period of their life.

So we find ourselves in a situation where this administration has failed to keep up with the CHIP program, the program that responds to the needs of our children that are uninsured, of working Americans that are out there paying their taxes, working hard, but finding themselves without access to health care.

This country can do better. We can do better. We have the best health care system in the world. Let us do better.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4850, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4850) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or

in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. FRELINGHUYSEN, ISTOOK, CUNNINGHAM, DOOLITTLE, WELDON of Florida, CULBERSON, YOUNG of Florida, FATTAH, PASTOR, CRAMER, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 878, CREATING ADDITIONAL FEDERAL COURT JUDGESHIPS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 814 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 814

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (S. 878) to authorize an additional permanent judgeship in the district of Idaho, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.